

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ADDIS 10979 140900Z

21

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /009 W

----- 055662

R 140838Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1331

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 10979

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN ET FR SCUL

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL AFAR EXPEDITION

REF: STATE 232419 AND PREVIOUS

1. DR. DON JOHANSON CALLED ON CHARGE OCT 13. SAID HE HAD ARRIVED IN ADDIS OCT 11, AND THAT GRAY WAS ALSO HERE. REMAINING MEMBERS OF HIS TEAM, HOWEVER, WITH EXCEPTION OF ONE STUDENT HERE FOR OTHER PURPOSES, ARE NOT NOW BEING BROUGHT INTO COUNTRY PENDING JOHANSON'S ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO SECURITY PROBLEMS. JOHANSON APPEARED BE OPEN-MINDED ON SUBJECT AND GIVE CLEAR IMPRESSION HE WAS FULLY CONSCIOUS OF POTENTIAL PROBLEMS. SAID EPMG MINISTRY OF CULTURE HAD APPROVED EXPEDITION AND THAT VARIETY OF ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS PREVIOUSLY LEFT HANGING, HAD NOW BEEN RESOLVED.

2. CHARGE URGED JOHANSON NOT TO UNDERTAKE EXPEDITION THIS YEAR. ALL AVAILABLE INFO INDICATED CONSIDERABLE UNREST IN GENRAL AREA OF DIG, PRESENCE OF ARMED BANDS, REPORTS OF CLASHES WITH ETHIOPIAN ARMY AND ROVING ISSA TRIBESMEN IN DIG AREA WHICH NORMALLY INHABITED BY AFARS. TIGRE PROVINCE AND EVEN NORTHERN WOLLO PROVINCE WERE SCENES OF CONSIDERABLY MORE INSURGENT ACTIVITY THAN LAST YEAR, "DANAKIL THREE" HAD SET OFF INTO INSURGENT CAPTIVITY FROM SERDO (ALTHOUGH WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY WERE CAPTURED) AND TFAI ITSELF WITH ITS POTENTIAL FOR TROUBLE WAS NOT FAR AWAY. EQUALLY OF CONCERN WAS THAT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ADDIS 10979 140900Z

EXPEDITION HAD NOT BEEN ABLE ARRANGE ANY SATISFACTORY

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION AND FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES
WOULD BE INCOMMUNICADO MOST OF THE TIME. FURTHER,
WITH LIGHT PLANES CURRENTLY GROUNDED INCLUDING OUR OWN,
AND AIRCRAFT OF GOVT-OWNED CHARTER AIRCRAFT COMPANY,
ADMAS, MOSTLY DEADLINED, POSSIBILITIES FOR CONTACT BY
AIR WERE GREATLY DIMINISHED THIS YEAR. ONLY RELIABLE
TRANSPORTATION WOULD BE EXPEDITION'S OWN LANDROVERS
WHICH EASILY SUBJECT TO INTERDICTION BY HOSTILE FORCES
AND WHICH THEMSELVES WOULD BE TEMPTING TARGETS FOR ROVING
ARMED BANDS.

3. JOHANSON SAID HE APPRECIATED OUR VIEWS, AND WOULD
BE MAKING HIS OWN PERSONAL RECONNAISSANCE TO TENDAHO/MILE/DUBTI AREA
NEARBY. HE WILL LET US KNOW HOW HE COMES OUT.
TIENKEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ADDIS10979
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760385-1230
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761055/aaaabvcu.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 232419
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <29 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNATIONAL AFAR EXPEDITION
TAGS: OGEN, SCUL, OTRA, ET, FT, (JOHANSON, DON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006